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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 16 November 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Albania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith, the text of a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania, His Excellency Mr. Alfred Serreqi (see annex) on the recent tragic events in Macedonia.

I should very much appreciate it if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 69 and 97, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Thanas SHKURTI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 14 November 1992 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Albania to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to address myself to you and share my deep concern relating to recent developments in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, namely, in Macedonia. As you may be aware, this former Yugoslav republic is inhabited by a considerable number of Albanians, who comprise 40 per cent of the whole population. The Government of the Republic of Albania, through bilateral meetings and in international bodies, has always expressed its reservations over the treatment of the Albanian population in Macedonia. The recent developments, for the seriousness they represent, are ever more worrying. The violent clashes which happened last week resulted in 4 people killed, 30 others wounded and more than 80 people arrested. Those figures speak very clearly for a serious confrontation, which needs to be attentively considered by the international community.

The Albanian political subjects in Macedonia have demonstrated tolerance and maturity by appealing to the people not to lose their temper and fall victims of the police provocations and other political forces, which are interested in triggering a new bloody conflict.

The Government of the Republic of Albania, in its constructive efforts to prevent the spreading of the conflict to other parts of former Yugoslavia, has often contacted the authorities of Shkup (Skopje), granting to them a prerecognition as a real partner in negotiations. In all those meetings at different levels, we have shown very clearly the position of the Republic of Albania towards Macedonia and have stressed our attitude that the recognition of the territorial integrity of Macedonia within its existing borders constitutes a stability factor for the whole region. But meanwhile we have also insisted that the legitimate rights of the Albanian population in Macedonia must be exercised. In this we have found a de jure understanding from the Macedonian side. Nevertheless, the recent events throw a shadow of suspicion on the seriousness of the commitments, which the Macedonian side has promised to accomplish. The delegations of the Republic of Albania in different international forums have presented the concern of the Albanian public by clearly stating that the development of our bilateral relations depends very much on the defining of the status of Albanians in that country.

Being confronted now with a reality, and at the same time being aware that this Republic has not yet been recognized, I consider it reasonable to address this letter to you in order to share with you the concern of the Albanian people and its Government over the aforementioned situation. In this respect, I should kindly ask you in your capacity as the Secretary-General of

the United Nations to use your influence that this region must be put under international observation in order to avoid new bloodshed. I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to stress that the Government of the Republic of Albania would support any efforts to keep the peace in the region and give its contribution to this end.

(Signed) Alfred SERREQI